

Remarks

Claims 10-15 are pending in the application. Claims 10-15 have been rejected. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendments and following remarks. Claims 10-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth above.

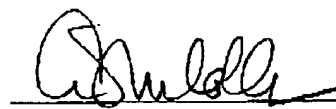
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interviews on December 16 and 18. In those interviews, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney for applicant discussed proposed claim amendments offered by applicant to address the Section 112 rejection. Based on the discussion in the December 18 interview, applicant understands that the Examiner considers the claims as amended above to comply with Section 112.

As a result, the claims should now be in condition for allowance. But if upon review the Examiner determines that additional issues remain before this application can be allowed, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that a further interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Accordingly, and for the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-15 of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to Mail Stop AF, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number 571-273-8300, on December 20, 2005.


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